In regard to your suggestion to authorise the Mahomedan Inspector to dispose of matters relating to Mahomedan schools, his recommendations can only be disposed of by his superior officers until he gains more experience.

Your other suggestions will be considered.

103 Education.

Mr. P. Chellasami Chinnanania Pandyan (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) said that the people of Shencottah were deeply indebted to the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja for raising the standard of the English School, Shencottah, by opening Forms IV, V and VI in three successive years. In the whole taluk that was the only English school. As the strength of the school was steadily progressing, it was all the more necessary to have a lower grade English school as a feeder to it. A lower grade school might therefore be opened under departmental management at Ayikudi, situated in the midst of several flourishing Travancore villages, and only 8 miles distant from Shencottah. The opening of the lower grade English school would remove a long-felt want and would bring English education within the reach of all in the taluk. He added that the local inhabitants were quite ready to provide the necessary buildings and premises required for the purpose.

In regard to vernacular school education, he stated that it was very backward in the taluk and that the causes for the same should be looked into and removed and vernacular education placed on a sound basis. According to the Member, the backwardness was due to the circumstance that Tamil was the mother tongue of the people while Malayalam was the language taught in the school. Hence, it was highly necessary that Tamil should be taught in all the schools of the Shencottah taluk. Tamil should also be the medium of instruction and examinations should be conducted in Tamil, and instruction in Tamil must be made compulsory in the whole taluk. He further pointed out that, as the Court language was Malayalam, the parties, who were Tamilians, were not able to understand Malayalam, and made horrible mistakes. In order to avoid such occurrences, it was imperative that the Court language in the Shencottah taluk should be Tamil.

For the benefit of the large number of children who never attended a school, the Member also suggested that the Government might open an industrial school with agriculture, weaving and carpentry as the subjects to be taught.

Dewan's reply.—With regard to your proposal to start a lower grade English school at Ayikudi, the matter will be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for investigation and remarks. If I may throw out a suggestion, I would ask you to start an aided school, as it can be accomplished much more quickly than a departmental school, since you say you are prepared to meet the expenditure on this account. Government will of course sanction the necessary grant.

I was not aware of the fact that Tamil is not taught in the vernacular schools in the Shencottah taluk. In the southern taluks of the State, Tamil is also taught. It is there optional either to read Tamil or Malayalam. Some such arrangement should be made in the Shencottah taluk also. The matter will be looked into.

It is not thought desirable to make Tamil a Court language. The question of introducing more than one Court language is a complicated and difficult one. But in fairness to the people of Shencottah taluk, facilities will be created for imparting instruction in Tamil in the schools there.

In regard to the industrial school, it is part of a problem the solution of which will take some time.

104. The present system of education, its defects and remedies.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappilla (Member, Tiruvalla Taluk) referred to the reports of the Education Expenditure Committee and the Vernacular Curricula Revision Committee and thanked the Government for their decision to convene

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of officials and non-officials to discuss the recommendations of the two ...tees. He emphasised that the non-official gentlemen selected for the Con...nce should not be such as were prompted by considerations of official prefer...nce but should be men actuated by a genuine public spirit and possessing sound ...duc...ional experience. He then adverted to the incessant demand for the increase of the pay of teachers employed in vernacular schools and said that the question deserved sympathetic consideration at the hands of Government. He thanked the Government for the increase announced in the rates of grants-in-aid for teachers of vernacular schools, and added that the rates were still inadequate. He admitted that very few managers of schools had set apart specific funds for outlay on schools and that they merely started those schools out of philanthropic motives, with the result that they were unable to pay the teachers consistently with their present-day requirements.. Without adequate State help, most of such private schools would soon cease to exist, and the example of ill-fed and ill-paid teachers would be highly demoralising. The Member was of opinion that the pay of vernacular school teachers should at least be Rs. 15 per head so as to enable them to keep body and soul together. An improved scale of pay should be sanctioned for all grades of teachers. The proposal, of course, involved additional expenditure. But the Member assured Government that, if the people became convinced that the State was financially handicapped, they would heartily come forward to co-operate with the Government in tapping fresh sources of ...venue.

As regards the recommendations of the Education Expenditure Committee, ...Member stated that he did not agree with the Committee in their proposal to ...lish the Range Inspectorships. The appointment was quite necessary to supple...nt the work of the Chief Inspector. He thought that the work of inspection and ...ervision of schools by the Assistant Inspectors was not satisfactory and that they ...uld be compelled to inspect at least 100 schools each. It was essential to lay ...n some such standard. The present inspection consisted only of the school ...rds but not of the schools. The Member suggested that teachers in grant-in-aid ...ols should be appointed whenever vacancies arose in departmental schools, ...such a system would facilitate the recruitment of teachers in grant-in-aid ...ools.

In regard to English schools, the Member said that the existing ...nts-in-aid was an unsatisfactory one and that the proposals made by the Ed...penditure Committee in the matter were satisfactory. He then spoke about ...ystem of correspondence which was in vogue between the Education departme...the managers of private schools. It was highly undignified and la... uniformity. The need for prescribing a form of correspondence was impera... the dignity and status of managers should be carefully safeguarded. He e... the hope that the matter would be looked into and early orders issued to re... present unsatisfactory arrangement.

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Appendix

The Member was in full agreement with the recommendations of th... cular Curricula Revision Committee, and said that the acceptance of thos... mendations would tend to solve the serious problem of unemployment in t... a large number of school-leaving certificate holders. Industrial schools, ... equipped and well conducted, should also be established to teach the scho... men a profession that would sustain them in life. He considered the present indust... schools as utterly worthless. There should be a separate grant-in-aid system f... those schools and a separate officer to supervise them.

The Member next dwelt on the deplorable condition of school buildings whic... were being steadily neglected for want of funds for timely maintenance. He con... demned the unauthorised practice of the headmasters of those schools collecting public subscriptions for the maintenance of school buildings and said that it should be dis...continued forthwith. The schools should be properly maintained or they should be closed. As regards furniture too, the departmental schools were exceedingly unsatisfactory. He requested that prompt measures be adopted for remedying the defects pointed out.

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The Member then referred to the departmental order prohibiting admission of a boy into a girls' school in Classes I to IV in the event of a boys' school being close by, and observed that the prohibition in places where such co-education was convenient was meaningless, especially in view of the fact that boys and girls studied together in the higher classes.

The Member next requested that a Chair for Natural Science be established in the College with effect from the next academic year.

He then dwelt on the question of text books and said that the prevailing system of prescribing a large number of books was unsound and unsatisfactory. Books were prescribed not for their intrinsic use or merit, but for the sake of their authors. The whole system should be changed and competent authors asked to edit good and useful books for use in schools.

Dewan's reply.—Government are very thankful to you for the trouble you have taken to study the subject and for the valuable remarks made by you. As most of the questions you have dealt with will be considered by a Conference, I do not propose to give a detailed reply. I shall, however, refer to a few points, which either may not come up before the Conference for consideration or about which separate orders have been passed.

In regard to the question of inspection of schools, Government have already passed orders prescribing 100 schools as the standard of inspection for a year. Government consider that this can be done without detriment to the quality of the work.

The suggestion to recruit teachers of departmental schools from aided schools has been also made by Mr. K. N. Parameswaran Pillai who spoke on the subject yesterday. I think there is considerable force in that suggestion. Mr. Hodge also says that a certain percentage of teachers may be recruited as suggested. Personally, I think it would be a very good step to take, for the reason put forward by you, *viz.*, that it would make teachership in the aided schools more attractive by the subsequent employment in Government schools. The suggestion is accepted.

Your suggestion regarding the form of address to non-official gentlemen is an important one. Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar has also made the same complaint with regard to communications sent to non-official gentlemen, no uniform address is adopted. Very often, the address is such as to provoke irritation or criticism in effect will be remedied.

In regard to the systematic maintenance of school buildings, it seems to me the most practical solution of the problem lies in the creation of Village Councils, the chief functions of which, when created, will be to take charge of the maintenance of these institutions and see that it is done at a reasonable cost. It is these Councils that can attend to the work most effectively.

I see you want local option in regard to boys and girls reading together in classes I to IV. You remark that, in some places, much older girls and boys read together in the higher classes. This is a matter of Hobson's choice. There may be no higher grade girls' schools in those places, and what is done in such a case is to keep girls on one side and boys on the other side of the room and the two are not allowed to mix. This cannot be viewed as an unmixed evil, but cannot be avoided till more girls' schools come into existence. One difficulty in adopting your suggestion is the great disparity of age between student and student. If the suggestion is generally adopted, there is the chance of grown up boys and grown up girls mixing together promiscuously, but where the people of the locality consider the matter carefully and then say: "we consider there is no objection to girls and boys studying together up to a certain class", I think the educational authorities should allow such a thing. The matter will be considered at the forthcoming Conference.

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Your suggestion with regard to text books will be sent to the Director for remarks. The Expenditure Committee have also made certain suggestions in their report which will come up for consideration.

With reference to your remark that in selecting non-officials for the Conference, people who have no axes of their own to grind should be selected, I may say that Government do want people of that sort. I shall be very much obliged if the Assembly would suggest certain names for the consideration of Government.

105. Certain educational reforms with special reference to technical and industrial education.

Mr. C. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Quilon Taluk) referred to the general condition of health of the pupils in all schools and said that it was very poor. It was in most cases due to the starvation of the pupils during noon-time. To remedy that evil, the Member suggested that Government should arrange for the provision of noon-day meal to such of the pupils as did not or could not provide themselves with the meal. Endowments by charitable persons, funds set apart for State charities, or scholarship funds might be utilised for the purpose. The attaching of hostels to higher grade English schools would remedy the evil to some extent. The prompt attention of all headmasters should be drawn to the matter and they should see that no pupil starved during noon-day and should insist on noon-day meal being brought by the pupils themselves as far as possible.

The Member then proceeded to consider the general condition of vernacular school buildings put up by the people and handed over to Government. Their condition was utterly unsatisfactory and the situation demanded immediate attention. He referred to the higher grade vernacular school at Mulankadavu in West Quilon. The building put up by Government had fallen down, and it was not re-built. Classes V, VI and VII were being held in a private building free of rent. The department called upon the local inhabitants to re-construct the building and stated that the higher classes would be abolished in the event of failure of the people to do so. The proposal of the department was quite unfair, as the original school building was constructed by the people themselves at great cost and as the additional building which collapsed was put up by Government. Still, the Member stated that the people of the locality would reconstruct the building, if the Government would contribute a moiety of the cost. The next item of improvement which the Member suggested was that classes containing seventy and eighty pupils should not be put in charge of a single teacher, as was often done in certain schools, when teachers were transferred or were absent on leave. Temporary arrangements should be promptly made in such cases.

Speaking about technical education, the Member said that the Carpentry school at Quilon which was the only one of its kind, was not working satisfactorily at all. He suggested that the first four classes in the school be abolished and that pupils who had undergone a course of instruction in an elementary school be admitted into it and given technical education in smithery, carpentry, &c. Those who passed out of the school should be able to build houses at cheap rates, and should prove to be capable maistries in the Public Works Department and excellent cabinet makers. There were well-equipped workshops in Quilon and the school should be conducted in close communion with those workshops, under the guidance and advice of a Board of seven or nine members with the Director of Industries as the President. The Carpentry school should rather be mended than ended as proposed by the Dewan in his opening Address.

Dealing with the Department of Industries, the Member pointed out that the department served no useful public purpose. He also instanced the case of the jaggery factory to show the futility of the activities of the department and the enormous avoidable expenditure incurred by the department in maintaining a staff which had no work to do for the past one year and more. The work of the Oil Assistant was also quite disproportionate to the outlay of public money on that branch of the department. In conclusion, he suggested that steps should be taken

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